

Sept. 18, 1953

Miss Blanche A. Smith, Librarian
State Traveling Library
State Historical Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Miss Smith,

How were the trout biting? Fast and hard, I trust. I could have used some of that mountain peace and quiet after we returned from our long trip. It was a very fine trip in every respect, but it wasn't restful!

But, of course, vacations is not the topic of first importance at this point. I just want to report on a meeting which I attended in Dike, Iowa night before last. I'd have written before I went except that I didn't know about it until just before I took off for my final week of vacation in Minnesota - and I make it a point never to think about the job, much less do anything about it, when I'm on vacation! I was gone last week and the meeting was this week.

It all came about as a result of a visit I made in August to the Teachers College to show the library film for the summer school library science classes. The staff with whom I visited after the meeting, Miss McClelland, Miss McCusker, and Mrs. McCleod, mentioned having had a visit from a Mrs. Bowers in Dike relative to the town's establishing a library. It seemed to me to be a wonderful opportunity, as long as I was right there with the movie, the projector, the screen - the works, to show her and her committee what we were doing. I remembered from my earlier tour of duty in Iowa that Grundy county was one of the, if not the, wealthiest agricultural county in the state, and if there was a glimmer of interest anywhere in new library service, it should be guided to a county set-up. Maribelle called her right away, and she was ready, willing, and able, and got a couple of her committee members together, too, to see the film which we all took over to her house that evening. I offered to come back anytime they could get a large meeting organized and show the film and answer questions. The upshot of it was a telephone call one night, at home, asking if I'd come for their PTA meeting on Sept. 16. The usual attendance at those meetings is 100 adults - both men and women. Well, it looked to me as though any PTA of that proportion in a town as small as Dike was going to include a lot of farm people, so I said yes. I had already sent her copies of the MANUAL, and she sent out a bunch of letters to key people in the County. Unfortunately, none of them showed except a member of the board at Grundy Center (wife of the newspaper editor) and some one from Reinbeck. Both were very much interested in the county set-up. In fact, the Reinbeck woman is enrolled in a library administration course at T.C. - and Mrs. Bowers has enrolled, too! Mrs. B., if this works out well, is going to continue with other lib. courses!

It was a good meeting. The superintendent's wife told us afterwards that a good 50% of those in attendance were farm people. And they asked questions! There's enthusiasm there - something may come of it.